

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2005, 12:30 p.m. CT

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Gov. Heineman Presents Nebraska Governor Points of Light Volunteer Awards

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman today presented the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

"I'm very pleased to recognize these volunteers for their shining examples of selflessness," Gov. Heineman said. "Nebraskans are known for giving of themselves and that quality is part of what makes our state such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. I congratulate each of the recipients and encourage them to keep up the good work."

In the youth category, Miss Stefanie Graff, Omaha, Nebraska

Stefanie is a young woman with vision and purpose. She has volunteered at the Children's Hospital in Omaha since she was 15 years old in a variety of capacities. She has the unique ability to communicate with adults in the hospital setting and put people at ease. She has used this special ability to assist parents in stressful situations by comforting them and their children. She has also been instrumental in starting the Teen Advisory board at the hospital. She has helped to plan hospital events, restructure the teen volunteer program training and define the hospital's Teen Connection Volunteer Program's core values and objectives. Stefanie is a young person who is committed to making a difference in her community.

In the adult category, Marti Leishman, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska

Marti Leishman is a dedicated teacher and mentor to her third grade students. Marti saw the need at Fort Calhoun Elementary for students to have additional opportunities for physical exercise. She has volunteered many hours towards beginning and operating a school-wide Walk and Talk Program before school during the school year. The program combines the students' use of math skills, socialization and physical exercise. The students are eager to participate in the program and have raised money to purchase odometers for next year's program. Marti is a shining example of the positive impact that volunteering can have on the lives of others.

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In the group category, Ord Future Farmers of America Chapter, Ord, Nebraska
The youth of this group are very involved and care about their community. The youth of this group are reliable, professional and willing to go beyond what is expected of them. Some of the community projects they have been involved in are the community Farm Safety Day for children aged Kindergarten through sixth grade; picking up trash during and after the annual Comstock Windmill Festival; Household Hazardous Collection sties; and the Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Festival. At the Environmental Festival, the youth have served as group leaders and presenters. These youth are definitely points of light in their community.

Each quarter, Commissioners from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission review award nominations and make final recommendations to the Governor. The awards are sponsored by Woodmen of the World.

To nominate individuals and groups who have made a difference through volunteerism for a Governor's Points of Light Award, please visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov> to obtain a nomination form and instructions or contact 402-471-6225 or (800) 291-8911 to request information.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission supports the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through volunteer and community service.

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